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Volume XXXII.....No. 28

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway, near Broome
St.,—ALADDIN, THE WONDERFUL SCAMP—CINDERELLA.NEW YORK THEATRE, Broadway, opposite New York
Hotel,—GONDOLINA.DOWRY'S HALL, 808 Broadway,—PROFESSOR HARTZ
WILL PERFORM HIS "MAGICAL" TRICKS IN THE AIR—
THE INDIAN BASKET TRICK.RICHMOND'S ENGLISH OPERA COMPANY, Olympic
Theatre, Broadway,—THE BOSS OF CASTLE.SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 55 Broadway, opposite
the Metropolitan Hotel—IN THREE ACTS, DANCERS, ROCK-
SQUAD, BULLDOG, DANCING AND BULLDOG—MIDWINTER
DANCE OF CONQUEST.FIFTH AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, Nos. 2 and 4 West
Twenty-fourth street,—GRIFIN & CURRIE'S MINSTRELS—
ENTERTAINING MINSTRELS, BALLADS, BULLDOGS, &c.—
MAGNIFICENT BASKET TRICK.KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 729 Broadway, opposite
the New York Hotel—IN THREE ACTS, DANCERS, ROCK-
SQUAD, BULLDOG, DANCING AND BULLDOG—MIDWINTER
DANCE OF CONQUEST.TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 501 Bowery,—COMIC
VOCALISTS—NEEDY MINSTRELS, BALLY DIVERSITY, &c.—
TONY PASTOR'S TOUR AROUND THE WORLD.CHARLEY WHITE'S COMBINATION TROUPE, at
Mechanics Hall, 423 Broadway,—IN A VARIETY OF LIGHT
AND LACHRYMOSITY ENTERTAINMENTS, COMEDY, &c.—
THE FINEST OF THE ART OF THE LION OF ATLANTIS.MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—
PASTOR'S TOUR AROUND THE WORLD.HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETHIOPIAN MIN-
STRELS, BALLY DIVERSITY, &c.—A HUMAN TRIP
AROUND THE WORLD.BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC—THE NEW
MUSICAL CONCERT.COOPER INSTITUTE, Eighth street,—DR. HERRARD'S
ILLUSTRATED LECTURES ON HEALTH.CLINTON HALL, Astor place,—HUMOROUS LECTURE BY
MR. INGERSOLL LOCKWOOD.NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 615 Broadway,—
HEAD AND RIGHT ARM OF PROPHET—THE WASHINGTON
TRINITY—WONDERS IN NATURAL HISTORY, SCIENCE AND ART.
LECTURES DAILY, OPEN FROM 8 A. M. TO 12 P. M.

New York, Monday, January 28, 1867.

THE NEWS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

By mail from Europe we have advices dated the
17th of January, in detail of our cable dispatches. The
main points of the reports were published in the Herald
yesterday morning. To day we give our special corre-
spondence, with a compilation from our files, embracing
matter of interest and importance.The Kansas law was again rigorously enforced yester-
day, and the Sabbath passed off quietly and soberly,
there being but few arrests for violations of the law
either in selling liquor or using it too freely. A large
meeting of influential German citizens was held at
Cooper Institute last night in favor of a strict enforce-
ment of the law. Resolutions appropriate to the pur-
pose were adopted, and speeches were made by Pro-
fessor Schaff and Dr. Fiedler.Captain Tremble, formerly an officer of an Illinois
regiment, engaged in planting in Bowie county, Texas,
was recently shot and wounded by citizens of that
county. He went to New Orleans for assistance and
returned with twenty cavalry to find his wife and child
driven from home and the negroes who had been work-
ing for him manacled and driven through the streets.
The rioters were so numerous that the small force of
cavalry were forced to fall back. Mrs. Tremble died of
the effects of her exposure, and the captain was in a
prison cell.The report of the Canadian Minister of Customs is
published in synopsis in our columns this morning. He
recommends that American vessels be refused the
privilege of passing through the Welland Canal for a few
months. By doing this, he says, "we will bring the
Americans to reason."Orders have been issued for the removal of Lynch,
McMahon and the other condemned felons to Kingston
Penitentiary.Irvin A. Denison, formerly master at arms on the
United States gunboat Cayuga, committed suicide by
shooting himself through the head yesterday in the
back yard of a boarding house, No. 60 Main street,
Brooklyn. Depression consequent on the death of his
wife and loss of employment since his discharge from
the navy was the cause of the rash act.The steamer R. R. Cuyler, the fastest propeller in the
merchant marine of this country, was sold Saturday to
the Colombian government. She is being equipped as a
war vessel, and is receiving a battery on board at the foot
of Fifth street, East river.Advises from the Plains state that the Indians are mov-
ing southward in large numbers. Old Indian fighters
say that this means war, and that the soldiers will be
evaded by the redskins, who are well posted on their
movements.It appears that Head Centre Stephens has not yet
sailed for Europe.Our Washington correspondent says that a bill has
been framed for introduction in the House of Representa-
tives providing for the appointment of General Grant to
be acting President in case of the impeachment or re-
moval of President Johnson.Six men were drowned at St. Charles, Missouri, while
trying to cross the river in an open boat, the ice crushing
the boat like an eggshell.Ex-Governor Allen, of Louisiana, was buried in New
Orleans yesterday, his remains being followed by the
tomb by a large procession of citizens.The Baltimore harbor was opened yesterday by private
enterprise, and the fleet that has been ice-bound for
the last week will probably sail to-day, the channel
being permitted of the passage of vessels.The revenue cutter Massachusetts was burned at Balti-
more yesterday.The Palace Chemical Works, consisting of three large
buildings at Locust Point, near Baltimore, were burned
down yesterday. Three thousand carboys of sulphuric
acid and thirty tons of sulphur were also destroyed.
The loss is estimated at \$60,000. One of the proprietors
of the establishment died on Saturday.A passenger train on the Hudson River Railroad ran
off the track yesterday near Hyde Park, and although
all the passengers, car, including a sleeping car, were
thrown off, nobody was hurt.The winner of the Crosby Opera House sold out to
Mr. Crosby, the former proprietor, on Saturday for
\$200,000. The balance sheet of the proprietors of the
gilt enterprise shows a total profit of \$650,000 on the
undertaking.The steamship General Mesde, Captain Sampson, from
New York for New Orleans, fell in with the brig G. W.
Barter, Captain Allen, from Wilmington, N. C., bound
to New York, which had struck on Cape Lookout Shoals,
lost her rudder and was in a leaky condition, and
towed her to Beaufort, N. C., for repairs.The brig Shooting Star, from New York to Aspinwall,
was abandoned at sea on the 12th inst. All the crew
were taken off.The Mayor of Galveston telegraphed to General Sheri-
dan asking him to command the order of General
Griffin refusing to allow the burial of the rebel general
Johnson with civil demonstrations, but General Sheri-
dan declined very sharply to grant the request.Official advices received by the Mexican Consul at
San Francisco contain information of the capture of
Ortega, Gonzalez and Hatan by the Governor of Zaca-
tecas. Juarez expected to be in the city of Mexico in
March.The Rev. Charles B. Smyth lectured at Argus Hall, on
Broadway, yesterday, on "The Times We Live In, or the
Vicissitudes of Life." The Rev. Dr. Littlejohn repeated
his sermon on the "Demoralizing Literature of the Day,"
and the Rev. J. T. Becker delivered his lecture
on "The Duties of Catholics in the Present Moment in
the Great Republic." Various societies and boards held
their regular meetings.Rev. Joel Lindley, the preacher who whipped his
told to death in Orleans county last summer, has been
jailed for manslaughter in the second degree.
A descent was made last night on the gambling house
No. 701 Broadway, and John C. Homan, said to be the
proprietor, was arrested, besides several others.Southern Restoration—Curious Array of Dis-
turbances.Wendell Phillips, in the State House at Bos-
ton the other day, devoted himself to an argu-
ment against the ratification of the pending
constitutional amendment by Massachusetts, on the
ground that while its adoption will be binding
on the North it will be practically a dead letter
in the South. The third section, disfranchising
certain classes of rebels, he holds, cannot be
executed in the South. The only remedy, he
contends, is to put seven hundred thousand
negro votes into the scale. He is in favor of
disfranchising prominent rebels, but if he
can give the negro the ballot he will be willing
to trust Wade Hampton. He says nothing
of fixing in the constitution, as this amendment
proposes, the binding obligations of the national
debt and the repudiation for evermore, as
utterly illegal, null and void, of all rebel debts,
and all claims for emancipated slaves, and he
overlooks the condition which requires the
concession of the suffrage to the blacks by the
several States, in order to count them in the
popular enumeration for Representatives to Congress.
In truth, from certain declarations
of Phillips heretofore, he is ready for the alterna-
tive of universal repudiation, if he cannot
obtain universal negro suffrage, as the all-heal-
ing panacea of Southern restoration.All this means that Phillips is opposed to
any scheme which promises a speedy settle-
ment of this vexed question. He has his own
theory of the advantages to be gained by delay.
He has his own visionary projects of recon-
struction, which can only be reached by reduc-
ing the country to chaos and then in begin-
ning anew. There are various other leaders
and factions and fanatics who are driving for
the same point of departure, although by dif-
ferent roads. The leaders of the Northern
democracy are opposed to the pending amend-
ment, because they think that in staving off
this settlement "something will turn up" to
bring them, in conjunction with the South,
again into power. The ruling old pro-slavery
class of the South are opposed to the amend-
ment because they entertain similar expecta-
tions. President Johnson himself may be
placed in the same category. Greeley, accord-
ing to his last pronouncement on the subject,
is with Phillips as to the infallible specific of
universal negro suffrage, but shrinks with fear
and trembling from President Johnson's im-
peachment, which Phillips holds to be the first
indispensable step to "liberty, equality and
fraternity."Such are the disturbing forces operating
against the pending amendment—the Northern
abolition fanatics of the school of Wendell
Phillips, the weak-kneed reformers represented
by Greeley, the old hide-bound Northern demo-
cratic leaders, the old ruling class of the
rebel States, President Johnson and the hold-
over Dred Scott expounders of the Supreme
Court. These disturbing elements, in many
things conflicting and arising out of different
objects, are all working together for delay in the
settlement of our existing troubles. Phillips
and Greeley desire to sacrifice the amendment
in order to secure universal negro suffrage;
Vallandigham and the Seymours, Wade Ham-
pton and all the old Southern political manag-
ers still remaining on hand, together with the
administration, are laboring to defeat the
amendment because, if adopted, it will inaugu-
rate a new dispensation and an entirely new
organization of parties, and because under
President Johnson and the Supreme Court the
hour is cherished of still another reign of the
Bourbons, State rights, slavery and all. Thus
it is that the main body of the dominant party
in Congress is confronted on every side by
hostile factions, and thus among other dangers
this dominant party is threatened with dissen-
sions and divisions which encourage all these
opposing forces to hold their ground.How is Congress to baffle and overthrow all
these opposing combinations? Not by delay nor
masterly inactivity; for that is their game.
Not by hedging and dithering to the end of
President Johnson's term of office; for that is
his policy and theirs, to bring the rebel States,
as they stand, into Congress and the next
Presidential election, under a decree from the
Supreme Court. There remains to Congress,
then, only the policy of pushing through the
amendment as the basis of Southern restora-
tion; and as it is now made manifest that the
amendment is mainly blocked by President
Johnson, his impeachment and removal will
become the first and the main question with
the new Congress which meets in March. What-
ever else Congress may deem nec-
essary in the way of reconstruction,
the securities of this amendment must
be fixed in the constitution. Otherwise, with
Southern restoration a repudiation party will
at once be developed North and South. It is
hinted that Chief Justice Chase and Greeley
favor a compromise on negro suffrage with the
President; we know that Phillips goes for his
impeachment to secure negro suffrage; but
there can be no security for anything short of
the adoption of this amendment. How the re-
publicans now stand in the two houses upon
this question we cannot tell, but with the meet-
ing of the new Congress fresh from the people
we expect that, mainly in behalf of this pend-
ing amendment as the great issue of the recent
elections, the impeachment will be pushed to
the removal of President Johnson.Upon this line there will be force and con-
sistency in the impeachment; but in diverging
to negro suffrage as the only issue to be settled,
as the only security needed for the future,
Wendell Phillips, as of old, is again playing
into the hands of Wade Hampton, and Greeley
is strengthening the rejected policy of Presi-
dent Johnson. Upon the basis of the amend-
ment the party in power will be supported by
the North even to the removal of the present
Executive and a reconstruction of the Supreme
Court. Then, with the settlement completed
and with the South restored, we shall have a
reconstruction of parties involving new issues,
new men and new combinations of sections and
factions and whites and blacks. Let Congress,
on the other hand, try the substitute of negro
suffrage as presented by Phillips and Greeley,
and it will prove to the republicans the ad-
mission of the wooden horse within the walls
of Troy and a restoration to the Bourbons.
Nay, more, we must fix the amendment in the
constitution or prepare for the new party and
the chase of universal repudiation, as the price
which Wade Hampton is ready, no doubt, to
exact, and which Wendell Phillips is ready, we
conclude, to pay for universal negro suffrage.WHISKY CONSPIRACY.—A motion was made
by Mr. Darling in Congress on Saturday re-
questing the Secretary of the Treasury to sus-pend the sales of confiscated whiskey unless
the price offered be equal to the tax on the
article. This is a very good resolution, and is,
no doubt, intended to restrain certain opera-
tions of government officials and others in the
purchase of confiscated liquor; but Mr. Dar-
ling should have gone a little further by sus-
pending the sales in cases where the market
price was not realized. This, we opine, would
effectually cure the evil intended to be removed
by his motion.

Mr. Morrill on Our National Finances.

From the position Mr. Morrill occupies in
Congress, as taking a leading part in all mat-
ters relating to the national finances, currency,
revenue and the tariff, and because he really
brings a great deal of knowledge to bear upon
them, his speech delivered last Thursday is
worthy of special notice. This speech was evi-
dently carefully prepared, but we are little
much in the same doubt as to his precise mean-
ing or what he proposes to do as we are with
regard to the speeches of one of our city men-
bers. We do not know exactly where he stands.
He multiplies words in generalizations and is
not sufficiently clear and explicit. He is in
favor of a resumption of specie payments by
contracting the legal tender currency, and yet
he is "persuaded that we shall not reach the
goal of resumption any earlier than the most
devoted partisan of an exclusive paper money
system would wish." While the politics of the
Secretary of the Treasury is distasteful to him,
he approves of his financial policy. In fact,
Mr. McCulloch's views regarding contraction
and sustaining the national banks are endorsed
by Mr. Morrill. But neither he nor the Sec-
retary has an idea different from those which have
been reiterated a thousand times by the bul-
lionists of Great Britain and this country. The
successive revolutions which England passed
through after the close of the long war with the
first Napoleon, in consequence of adopting
the resumption theories of the bul-
lionists, afford no lesson to them. The
periodical revolutions that have occurred every
few years since in that country, even in
specie paying times, does not prevent them
from pointing to the course followed there as
the best guide to us. The fearful pauperism
that pervades the whole kingdom, side by side
with incalculable wealth and unequalled pro-
duction, which can only be the result of an
unsound financial and monetary system, gives
no instruction to these men of one idea. They
do not see that the time has come when this
new and great country ought to abandon theo-
ries which have proved so pernicious and that
we should have a system of finance and cur-
rency adapted to our own circumstances. The
whole of Mr. Morrill's argument, as well as the
policy of Mr. McCulloch, is based upon British
ideas and practices, and yet we see what dread-
ful consequences have followed the application
of those in England.The great point Mr. Morrill endeavors to
make is that our circulating medium, which is
the currency, is much too large; that about a
third of it would be sufficient, and that it
should be all withdrawn except the three hun-
dred millions of national bank notes. That is
the amount and kind of currency only he
would give us. To sustain his argument he
refers to the circulation in England in 1844
and 1865, and to our own before the war, each
of which he states was less than three hundred
millions. We believe he underestimates the
amount, if we reckon both the paper and coin
in circulation at the same time. We will not
cavil about that, however. The question is
not what England has or what we had before
the war, but what is the amount required under
our present circumstances for the safe and
healthful operations of trade and develop-
ment of the country. We are passing
through an extraordinary a revolution in
financial matters as in political. We think,
too, that the changes this country is destined
to make in the former will exercise, in time,
as great an influence in Europe as it
is now exercising upon the political ideas of
that part of the world. The whole tendency
of the financial and monetary system of Eng-
land, and, indeed, of nearly all Europe, is in
favor of the rich and to reduce the producing
classes to the lowest point of existence. A
currency contracted too much is undoubtedly
the chief cause of this state of things.Mr. Morrill refers to Parliamentary reports
and other authorities to show that only about
three per cent of the circulating medium, or
what is called currency or money, has been
used in ordinary mercantile transactions, or
to use his own words, "to liquidate payments
in modern trading." According to this state-
ment ninety-seven per cent of all business is
done through the medium of the banks and
rich individuals and through credit. He
argues, consequently, that only a very re-
stricted currency is required. Does this not
rather prove that a more copious currency is
necessary to protect the mass of small traders
from the power and exactions of the banks and
the rich? With a large amount of circulating
medium, and, therefore, with an easy money
market, the banks are not able to hold the
trading community so much at their mercy and
to absorb the profits of trade to such an extent;
but are not the mass of the people thereby
benefited? Of course there is a limit beyond
which it would not be healthful or safe to ex-
pand; but we maintain that a currency too
restricted only makes the rich richer and the
poor poorer. This would be the case especially
under our present circumstances if the cur-
rency could be contracted to a specie basis.
The property of those who hold United States
securities would be increased over thirty per
cent, while the property of all others would be
reduced in the same proportion. All those
who owe anything would find that their debts
would be heavier and their means of payment
much less. Then we should witness revolutions,
bankruptcies and general distress such as the
people of England experienced in their efforts
to force specie payments after the wars with
the first Napoleon.Mr. Morrill predicts, as other resumption
theorists predict, that all sorts of evil will
come upon us if we do not contract the cur-
rency and return to specie payments. This is
a mere assumption, without the least founda-
tion in our own experience or in the history
of other countries. Contraction produces com-
mercial and financial revolution, by not main-
taining a steady, copious currency. We have
not suffered and are not suffering from a re-
dundancy. On the contrary, the country was
never more healthfully prosperous, apart from
the burdens the war has imposed upon us.
There has been some over-trading, and this,
with the season of the year, may have causeda temporary lull in business; but this occurs
also in specie-paying times, and is not caused
by our paper money. The development of
our manufactures, mines, agriculture and all
kinds of business within the last few years,
shows the effect of an abundant circulating
medium and easy money market. The true
policy is to let well alone and not meddle in-
judiciously with the currency.The national bank system is a favorite one
with Mr. Morrill, as with all the other advo-
cates of contraction and resumption. He
thinks the saving of twenty-four millions a
year to the Treasury in interest on the debt,
by substituting legal tenders for national bank
notes, is a trifle compared with the blessings the
banks are to the country. We differ with him.
The national banks constitute a great and dan-
gerous moneyed monopoly which will absorb
the profits of industry and exercise a powerful
influence over the politics of the country. The
government has given them enormous privi-
leges without any consideration in return.
They are, in fact, a fraud upon the country
and threaten it with great evils. Nor is the
twenty-four millions a year which is given to
them a trifle. That amount at compound in-
terest would pay off the national debt in less
than forty years. It is a greater amount than
the whole revenue or expenditure of the gov-
ernment a few years ago. Mr. Morrill has a
great deal to learn about financial matters.
We hope Congress may not be guided by his
theories and erroneous views.Our Indian Tribes—Reform in the Indian
Bureau.The proposition now before Congress to
transfer the management of the Indian tribes
from the bureau under the Interior Depart-
ment to the War Department, is one which
we think is not only calculated to facili-
tate the operations of the bureau, but will
relieve the country in a great measure from
the odium attached to measures hitherto
adopted in our dealings with the abori-
ginal races. There is no doubt that a
great deal of corruption, unnecessary vio-
lence and inhumanity has been associated
with the conduct of Indian affairs. Much of
the troubles on our frontier have originated
with agents and others having a personal in-
terest in perpetuating distrust, quarrels and
massacres among the tribes. By taking this
business out of the hands of civil agents and
placing the control of the Indian tribes in
those of military officers we will remove the
opportunity for corruption, which has involved
the government in vast expense and retarded
civilization in the Territories. The officers of
the army, acting by the orders and discipline
of the War Department, are held under strict
military jurisdiction, and they are not so liable
to engage in corrupt practices as civilians,
who are responsible to a civil department of
the government. Again, the officers of our
army, from their education and habits, are not
so prone to corruption and avarice as the poli-
ticians who usually fill the offices of Indian
agents, according to the present arrangement.
When any hostilities occur on the frontier
the military power has to be called in to
suppress them, and the authority of the War
Department is immediately required. Why
not, then, invest the whole management of
Indian affairs in this department? At the
present moment large bodies of troops are
being sent to the Territories to con-
front the hostile Indians. General Grant
and General Sherman, in their reports on
affairs in the West, have recognized the wisdom
of this distribution of authority to the War
Department, which is perhaps an additional
reason why the recommendation of the Military
Committee should be adopted by Congress.
Our Indian affairs have been miserably man-
aged, and some reform is absolutely needed.

The Latest Phase of the Eastern Question.

The telegraphic news of yesterday relating
to the affairs of the East is specially interest-
ing. The Cretan war is said to be ended, the
volunteers having returned to Greece. Infor-
mation of a similar nature has, on more than
one occasion already, been contradicted by
subsequent telegrams. It will not in the least
surprise us if our telegram of yesterday met a
similar fate. It is notorious that for some time
past Austria, much to the annoyance of
Prussia and Russia, especially the latter, has
been concentrating her forces in Galicia, and
that the Poles in that province, rightly or
wrongly, are of opinion that Austria favors the
resurrection of Polish nationality. It does
not, therefore, surprise us to learn that Prussia
has demanded from Austria an explanation of
her conduct. The most important item of in-
telligence is that the French, Russian and
Prussian governments have agreed to negotiate
with the Porte a settlement of the affairs of the
East. What does this mean? Negotiate is a
term of large significance. Has the Sultan
made up his mind to barter away his disaffected
provinces? Have the Powers above mentioned
agreed as to their share of the spoil and the
terms on which they are disposed to secure it?
What of Austria? What of Italy? Above
all, what of England? Are they all three to
be left out in the cold? Is the territory of the
Sultan to be rearranged or partitioned by and
in the interests of Russia, Prussia and France
alone? Such we may rest assured is not to be
the case. Austria, weak as she is, will not
stand passively by while the affairs of the East
are being settled. She is not yet so com-
pletely exhausted as tamely to submit to such
humiliation. She is too near a neighbor
and too deeply interested not to sum-
mon up her remaining strength—a strength
which her past history shows is by no means
easily exhausted, and demands that her voice
be heard. Italy is but little interested and
may well be left aside. But England—is it for
a moment to be imagined that she will remain
either indifferent or inactive while the settle-
ment of this long vexed and deeply important
question is being arranged by others? Cer-
tainly not. Anxious as she is for peace and
unwilling to embroil herself in continental
war, the interests which she has at stake are
too numerous and too weighty to admit of
such a course.What, then, is the explanation of the present
aspect of things? It is manifest that there has
been correspondence between the Porte and
the great protecting Powers in regard to the
affairs of the East, and specially in regard to
the conduct of the Greeks of the kingdom. The
Sultan is highly indignant at the conduct of the
Greek government. Prior to the open declara-
tion of war against that government he re-
cently notified his intention to the great
Powers. The telegrams of yesterday informus of the result of that notification. France,
Russia and Prussia have responded, and they
are prepared to act in harmony with the gov-
ernment of the Sultan in effecting some ar-
rangement. England, it is evident, had not
yet replied. Her reply, however, may be
hourly expected. Italy, in all likelihood, was
not consulted. Whether Austria has been
willfully ignored we have yet to learn. The
Eastern question thus enters upon an entirely
new phase of its existence. It is now fairly
European in its dimensions. The little cloud
in the East which we have been watching now
covers the entire Western continent. The
spark threatens to become a conflagration.
Diplomacy may yet prevent it. We shall see.Tenement Houses and Internal Improve-
ments.The attention of the Legislature has been
drawn to the question of improvement in the
tenement house system of this city, and we
have a right to expect that it will receive due
consideration. It is a subject which affects
not only the inhabitants of these dens of dis-
comfort, danger and disease, but, as a sanitary
question, enters largely into the interests of all
classes of the community. There is really no
substantial reason why New York should be
so far behind the large cities of Europe in pro-
viding wholesome dwellings for the working
classes. We have fewer poor to take care of
than Paris or London. The earnings of our
laboring population are on an average greater
than the same class in Europe, yet in many
portions of this city we find them compelled to
live in tenements more wretched than any
known in the capitals of the Old World. In
London the average number of people dwelling
in one house is about twelve; in New York it is
twenty-two. If our property owners who have
frequent opportunities to visit London and
Paris would only devote a little of their time
while on their travels to observation of the
dwellings where people of moderate means are
domesticated, they might learn a lesson which
would be profitable to themselves. If, instead
of constructing buildings where
a large portion of their inhabitants live
under ground, in damp cellars, they would
build houses four and five stories high, with
ample provision for light and ventilation by
means, say, of a skylight conducting light and
air through the centre of the building, and
furnished with easy modes of ingress and
egress by stone or iron staircases, a large de-
gree of comfort could be ensured to the occu-
pants, the danger of infectious diseases would
be avoided and the community would be
spared those horrible recitals of death by fire
and suffocation which almost daily comprise
part of our newspaper reading.It is true that we are somewhat confined
for room on Manhattan Island and can hardly
accommodate our fast growing population;
but there are many ways by which to remedy
this evil. One of them is to build higher
tenements in the lower part of the city, with
the accommodations and safeguards we have
suggested. Another is to make the thousands
of acres of waste land which surround the
city and its suburbs available by some system
of drainage which will give us, for building,
agricultural and other purposes, a vast area
now lying idle because of the tidal flow, which
leaves them wholly unproductive, and as easily
reclaimable by the aid of a little enterprise
and capital as Holland was reclaimed from the
sea, and portions of England were converted
from worthless swamps into fruitful farms and
gardens.There is no necessity for the miseries en-
dured in cellars and filthy tenements, the dan-
gers to human life, the germs of contagious
disease which the cramped and crowded con-
dition of the city entails upon us, while we
have ample space around us requiring only
the application of a little energy and capital
to render it available for useful purposes and
make it afford us relief in the most effectual
way. The Legislature, while it is employed
upon providing a remedy for the evils of the
tenement house system, might profitably divert
its attention to these points.The Emperor Napoleon and His Proposed
Reforms.When the recent reform decrees of Napoleon
were promulgated we were told that it was
received with great satisfaction by the French
people. Now the cable informs us that France
is very generally expressing its disgust at it.
Between these opposite assertions a middle
term will not hit the truth.
Considerable as are the concessions em-
braced in the Emperor's decree, it was not to
be expected that they would give satisfaction
to all parties. Nothing that he could do, for
example, short of abdication would extort the
approbation of the red republicans. The
clause specially leveled against their repre-
sentatives in the Legislature—that discontinu-
ing the address from the Chambers in reply to
the speech from the throne—has, as was to be
expected, excited their furious indignation.
Such men as Jules Favre and Eugene Pelletan
are cut off by it from all chance of venting
their inflammatory doctrines in public.
To statesmen of moderate constitutional
opinions, like Thiers, the restriction is not
of so much importance. They will find
abundant opportunities through the
other important provisions of the decree
of making up for this curtailment of the privi-
lege which they have hitherto enjoyed at the
opening of the session.As regards the bulk of the French people,
we do not believe that any such feeling as
that described in yesterday's telegrams exists.
They are fully aware that if the Emperor were
to concede too suddenly the reforms de-
manded of him they would at once lead to
revolution. The red republicans are not to be
trusted with such opportunities as would be
thus placed in their hands. Between the dan-
gers to which they must lead and the disap-
pointment of being compelled to wait some
time longer for more comprehensive measures,
the people prefer the latter. They have en-
joyed under the political system of the present
Emperor a larger amount of material happi-
ness and a greater sense of security than they
have ever before possessed. Wary of revo-
lutions, they are not willing to hazard this
condition of well-being for the doubtful future
opened up to them by the theories of the red
republicans.As to the motives which have actuated
the Emperor in yielding such important
relaxations of his policy, they are to be
found, we believe, in the conviction
that his foreign enterprises have
been failures and that his infirm condition ofhealth will not permit him to retrieve them.
He is too sagacious to suppose that he can im-
part permanency to the system of government
which he has initiated. It would require a
ruler of equal ability and daring to maintain it
after his death against the assaults to which it
will be exposed, not merely by domestic con-
spiracies, but by foreign combinations. What
chance would a feeble woman and an inex-
perienced boy have of contending against such
dangers? None. And no one, we believe, ap-
preciates the fact more keenly than the Em-
peror. Therefore it is that while there is yet
time he is beginning to experiment in the way
of political concessions. He, no doubt, thinks
that by reverting again to constitutional forms
there may be a chance of perpetuating a
dynasty which has hitherto only looked to in-
dividual energy and success for its hold on the
popular affections. He must not be expected,
however, to move too fast in this direction. It
requires infinitely more judgment and boldness
to relax the restraints of a despotic system like
his than to build it up anew from its founda-
tions.AMENITIES OF OUR LEGISLATIVE BODIES.—The
floor of the House of Representatives was the
scene of another violation of decorum on Sat-
urday, when language wholly unjustifiable was
indulged in by Mr. Ashley, of Ohio, and Mr.
Hunter, of New York. The former gentleman,
in charging members of the House with being
rebels and conspirators because their political
views differed from his own, transgressed all
parliamentary law, but Mr. Hunter, in using
the term "a base lie," was not less reprehensi-
ble. We are glad to see that Mr. Speaker
Colfax for once put a stop to this disorderly
conduct. He was not in the chair when the con-
troversy commenced, but he immediately hastened
to his place and called the unruly gen-
tlemen to order. While such bad examples are
furnished by the highest legislative body in the
land we cannot be surprised to find scenes of
violence occurring in the State legislatures,
such as the recent collision between two mem-
bers of the Virginia Assembly, one of whom
was knocked down on the floor of the chamber.
Parliamentary manners, like the fashions, are
supposed to radiate from the centre of civiliza-
tion and are copied in lesser places. It thus
behoves Congress to set a better example of
legislative amenities to the States.APPROACHING ELECTIONS IN THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA.—MOVEMENT OF THE BLACKS.—In ad-
vance of the coming Mayoralty election in
Georgetown the blacks of that city held a
meeting and adopted a platform embracing
perfect equality between whites and blacks,
which they succeeded in getting a candidate to
accept. This action may be regarded as the
first practical development of the impartial
suffrage system, and will probably be followed
up at the election in Washington. The gist of
the principles comprised in the Georgetown
platform are contained in the following
questions:—Will you, if elected, so execute the laws and ordi-
nances of the city as to admit of no distinction on
account of color, as required by the act of Congress known
as the Civil Rights bill?Will you, when laborers and mechanics are to be
employed by the corporation, so distribute the labor as
to give employment to both whites and blacks alike?This may be considered as opening the ball
on the